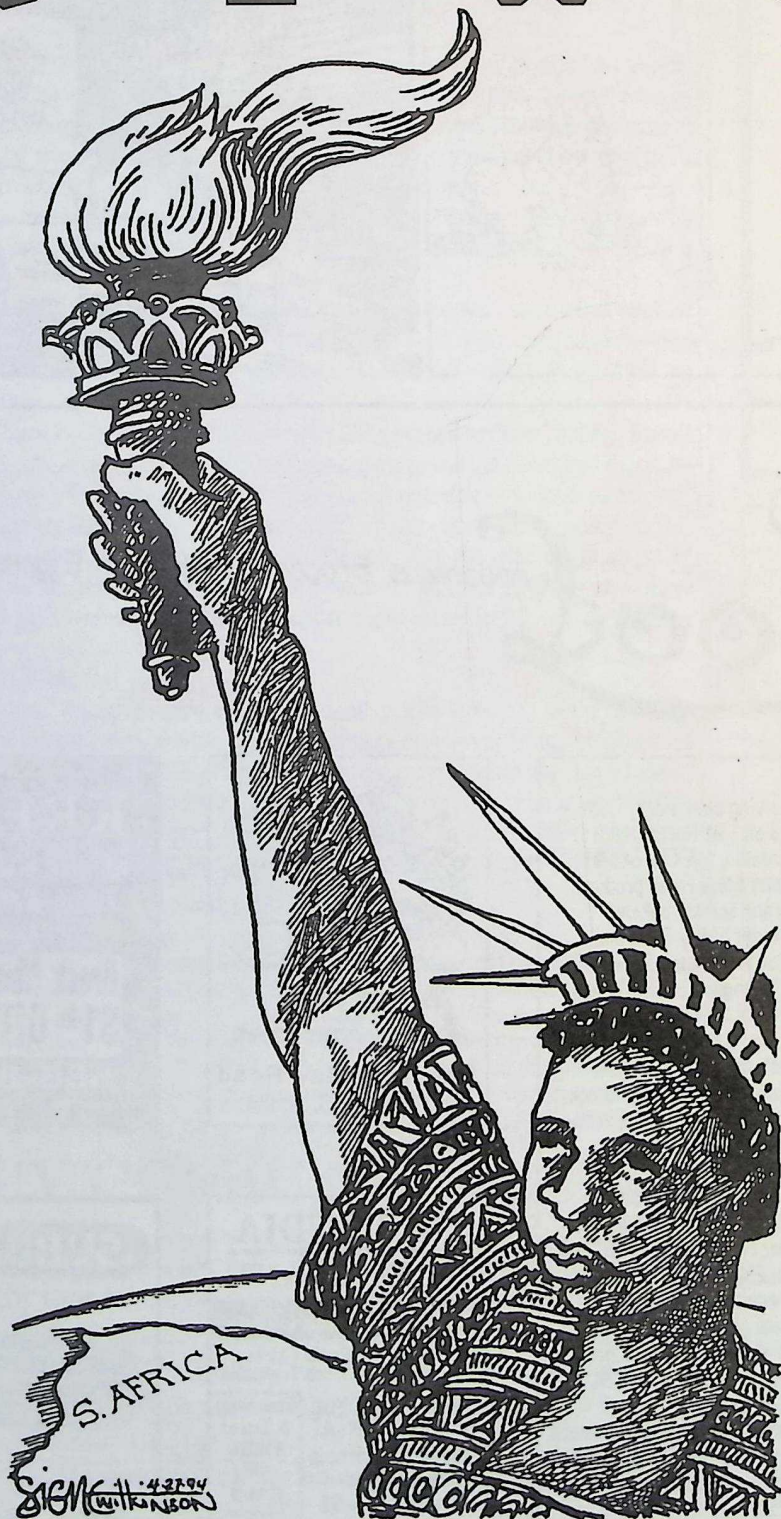


EPISODE #112
May 19, 1994

The Valley 66 COMIC N E W S



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

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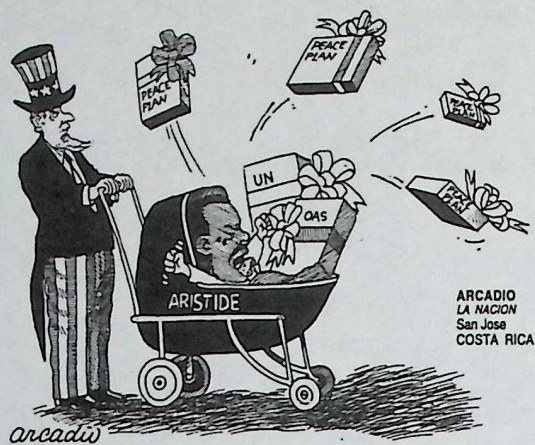
INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK



VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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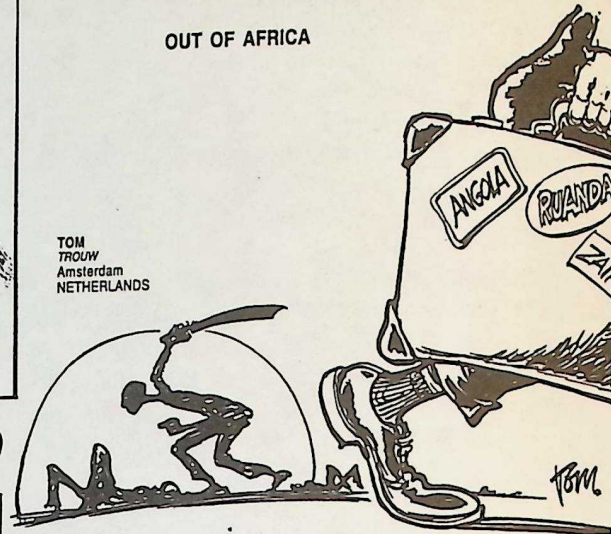
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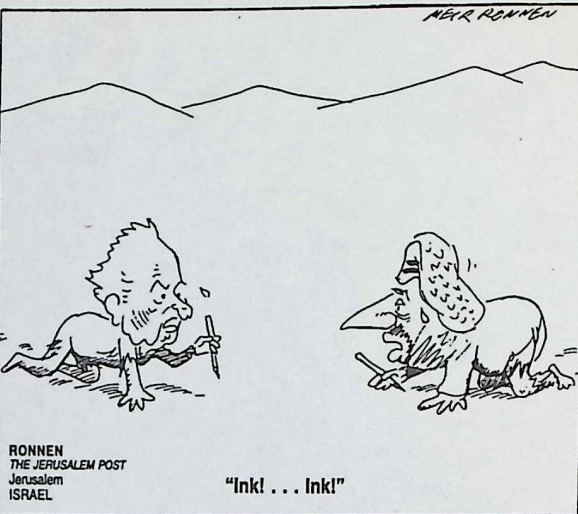
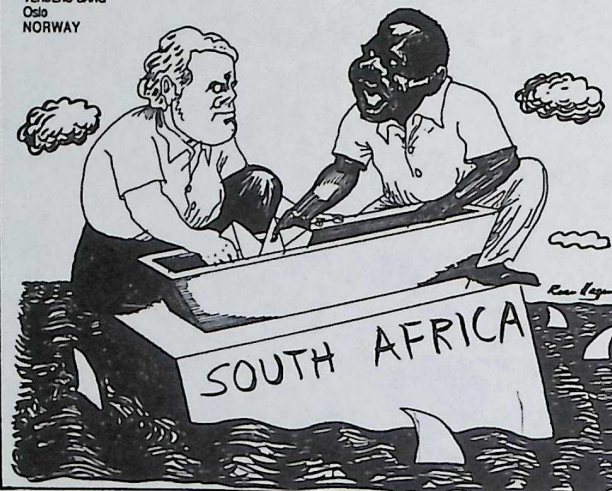
VIEWS of the WORLD

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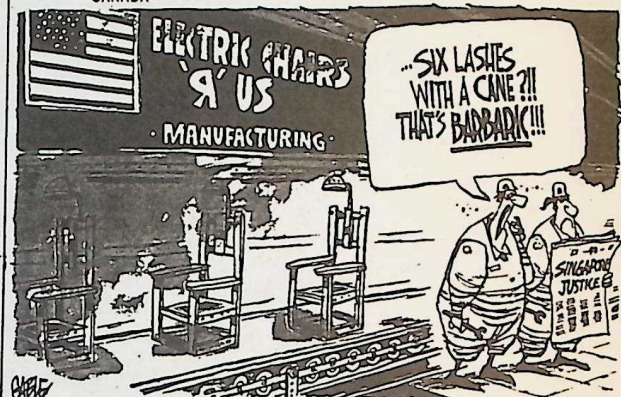
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SUBWAY
4 Main Street • Amherst
256-1919

Chives Summer Squash Lettuce Celery Green Beans Cucumbers Zucchini Walnuts Grapes Watermelon

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Today Answer Guy responds to your questions about a troublesome topic: Finance.

Q: These days the papers and TV news are full of the terms "monetary policy," "bond market," and "interest-bearing marsupials." What do these mean, and should we be worried?

A: It's America in the '90s — *everyone* should be worried. "Monetary policies" and "bond markets" are secret societies, like the Freemasons or Jaycees. Although the ACLU and other liberal activists support these organizations' right to exist, most decent Americans are repelled by their constant interference in our lives. These two bodies were founded by members of The McLaughlin Group, who are the only ones privy to *all* the passwords ... although several *New York Times* columnists have to *pretend* they're in the know to keep their jobs. "Interest-bearing marsupials" means different things in different financial markets, but in this country it means "opossums, compounded monthly."

Q: My broker told me it was time to get out of municipals and into Ginnie Maes. Do you agree?

A: This is a family newspaper, and I will not respond to a question like yours. Contact *Penthouse* magazine, or "Hard Copy."

Q: My mutual fund is performing poorly. It comes home, eats in front of the TV, and goes to bed. I can't get it interested in me at all, even when I put a hot Michael Milken tape in the VCR. Can you help?

A: It appears your relationship with this fund is not quite as mutual as you had hoped. Thousands of unhappy investors were initially lured into mutual funds by their attractive name. Yet once in a relationship, many investors have discovered only heartbreak, co-dependency, and financial ruin. To salvage whatever is left of your shattered life, you must get out *now*. Find a good financial therapist, and buy stock in Eli Lilly — they make Prozac.

Q: Why do bankers and accountants wear those goofy tassels on their loafers? In fact, why do they *wear* loafers? When I was a kid, we only wore loafers to hang around the house in ... you know, to *loaf*.

A: These are two very different questions. Bankers and accountants wear loafers because they need to be able to put their shoes on quickly whenever federal banking investigators burst into their offices, waving subpoenas and arrest warrants. The size of the tassel indicates the number of times the wearer has been indicted.

Q: I read about Hillary Rodham Clinton's making a killing in commodities trading. I don't understand how anybody could invest a thousand bucks in *anything* and get a hundred thousand in return ... much less *commodities*, which is stuff like cattle and hog bellies and soybean futures.

A: It's pretty straightforward, really. My sources (who refuse to be named) confirm that Hillary bought one steer for \$1,000 from a rancher in Bogota. By the time the steer got to Arkansas — along with the blister-packed four kilos of powdered commodity in its gut — there were three well-dressed guys with a bulging briefcase waiting to make a trade. What could be simpler?

Confidential to M.E.H.:

You "lost your shirt" because imports pushed bond prices lower in active trading. Unfortunately, bond prices pushed right back. Not to be outdone, imports brought in carloads of their friends (few of whom could speak any English) ... and before you could say "Dow Jones," security police had arrested 24 rioters and closed the New York markets three hours early. This incident will probably show those bond prices who's boss. Sorry about your shirt, though.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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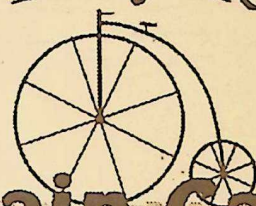
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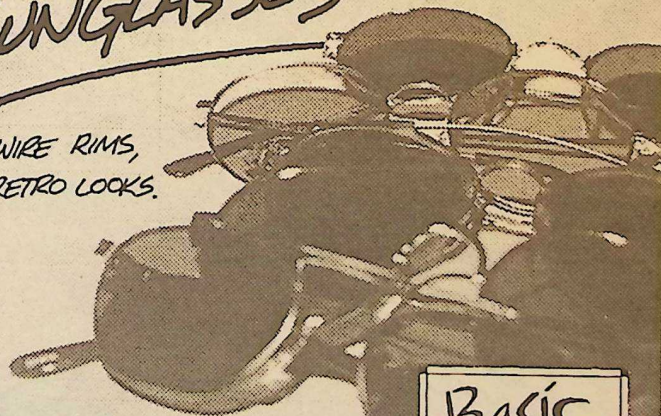


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Linking Bicycling and
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WIRE RIMS,
RETRO LOOKS.



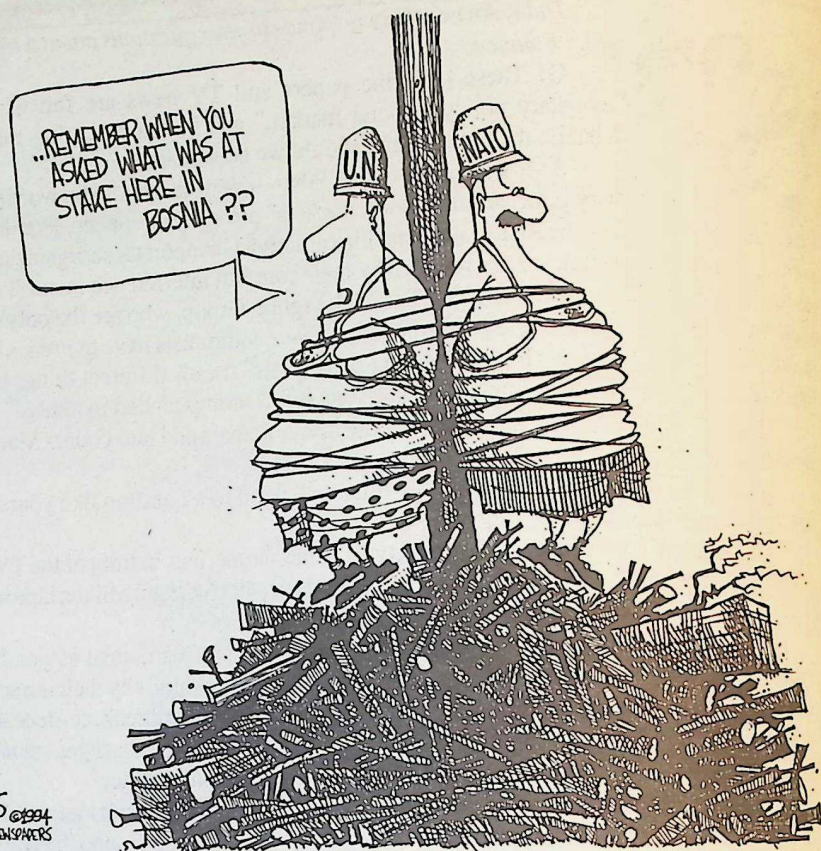
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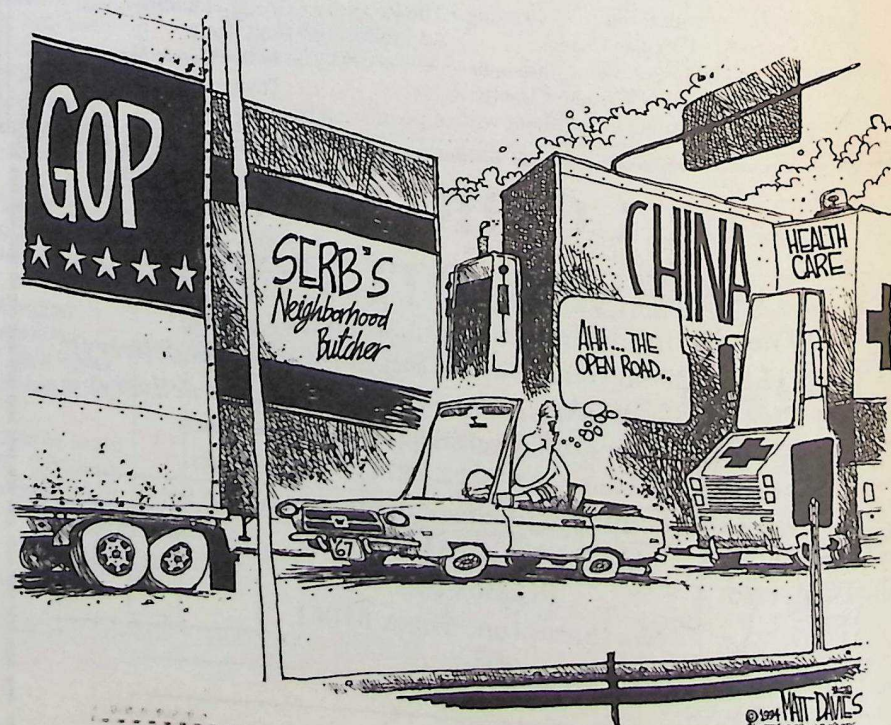
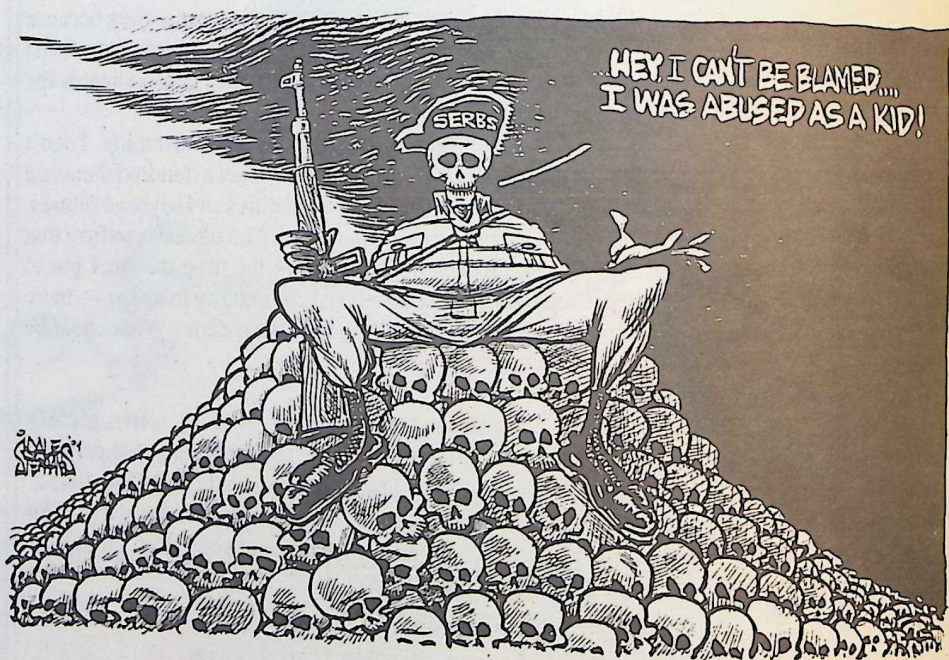
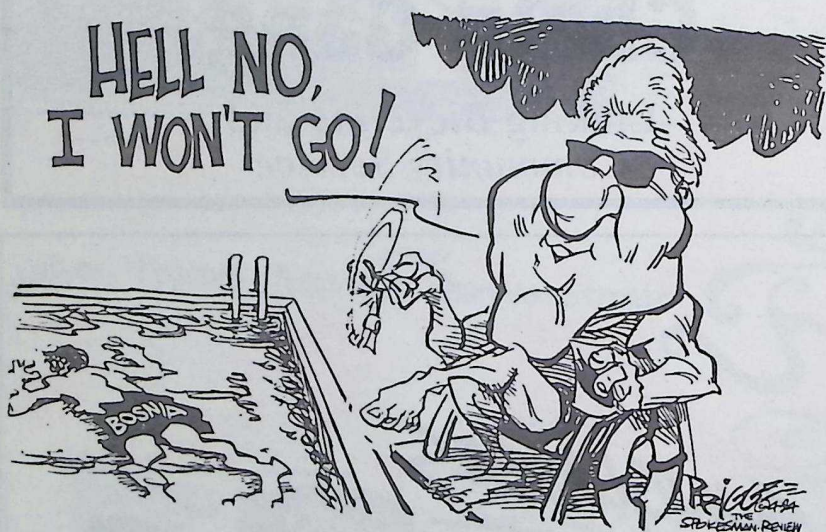
NOT CHEAP... JUST PRICED RIGHT!
THE LARGEST SELECTION.

MAIN STREET - NORTHAMPTON - OPEN 7 DAYS

ATROCITIES R US

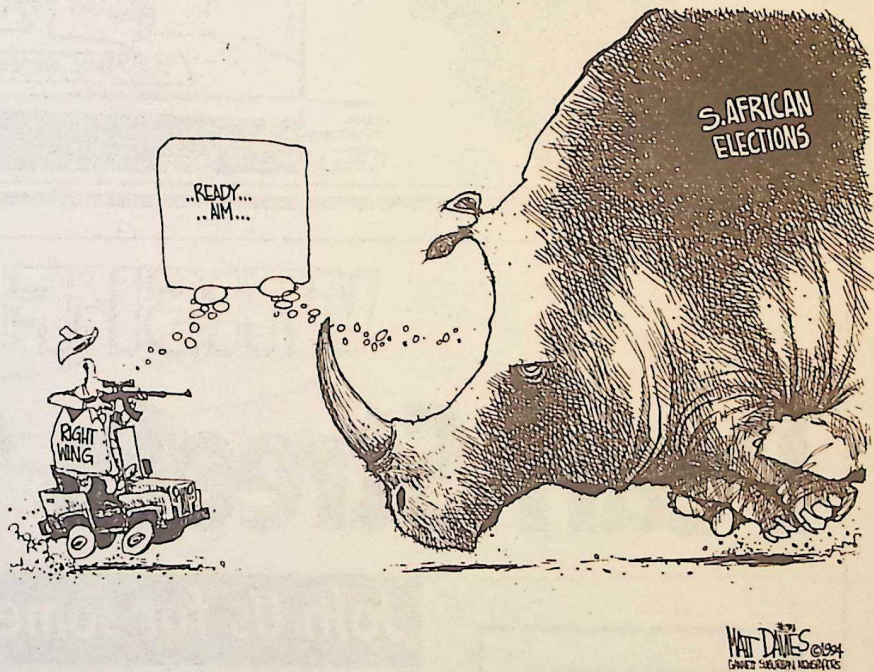
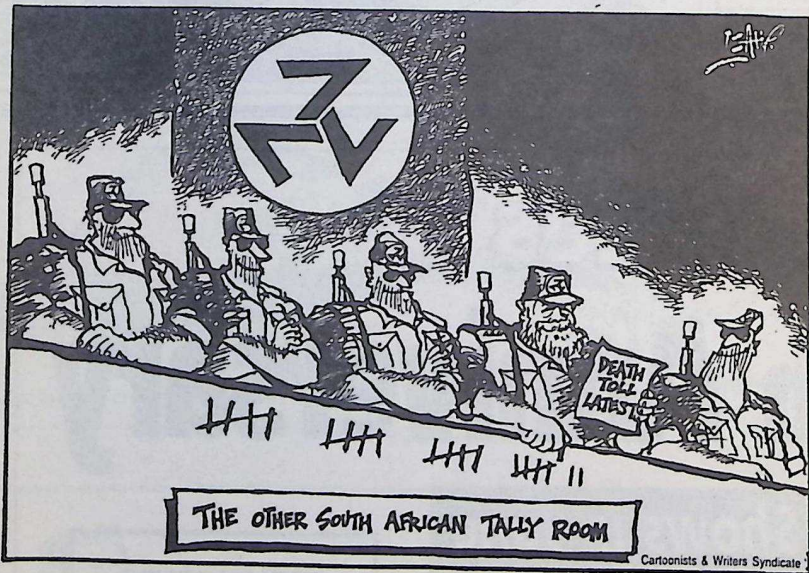
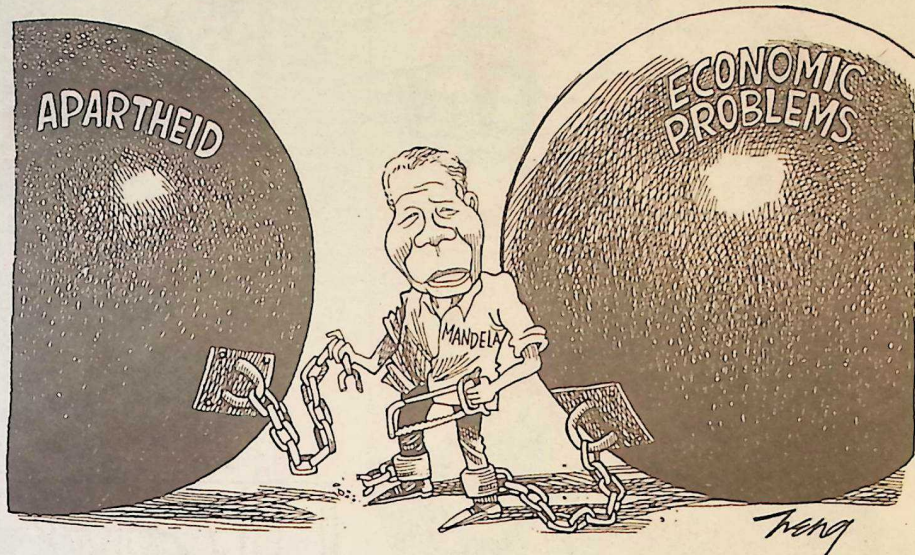
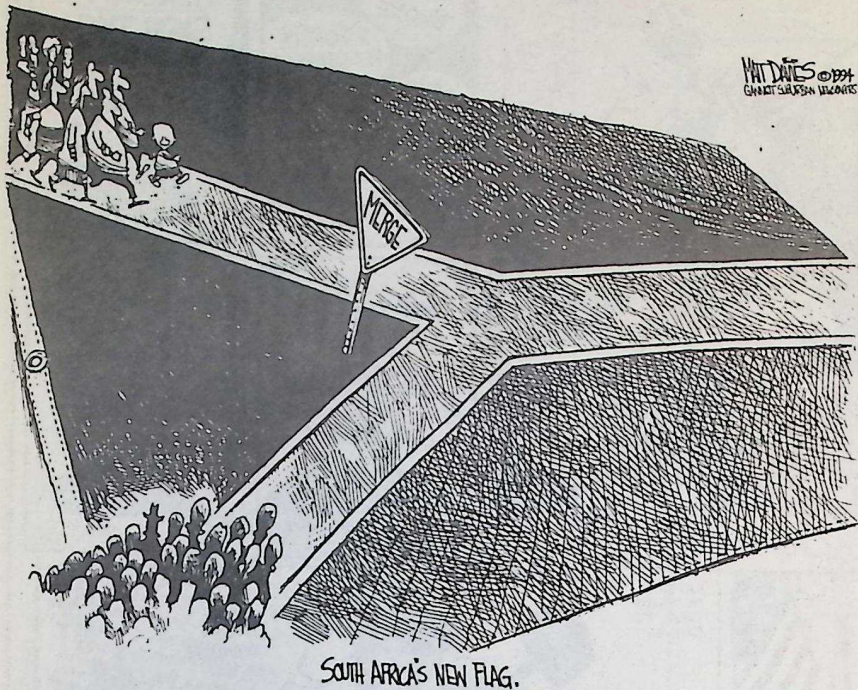


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OUT OF (SOUTH) AFRICA



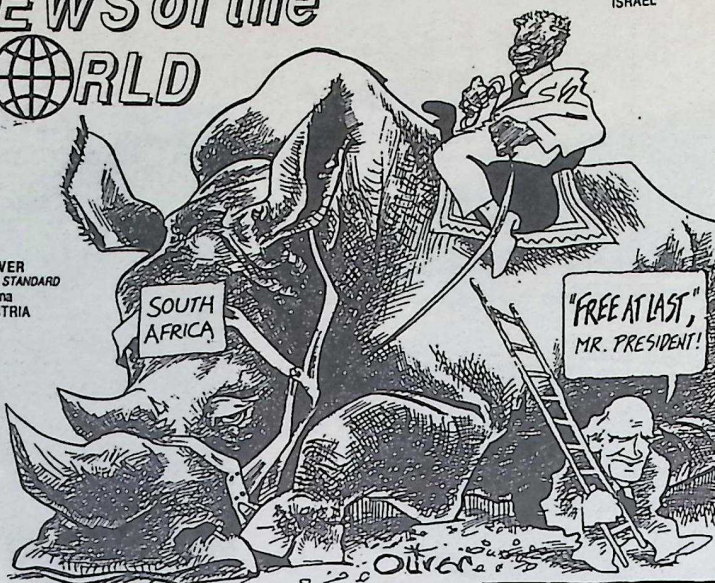
VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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AL AHAM WEEKLY
Cairo
EGYPT

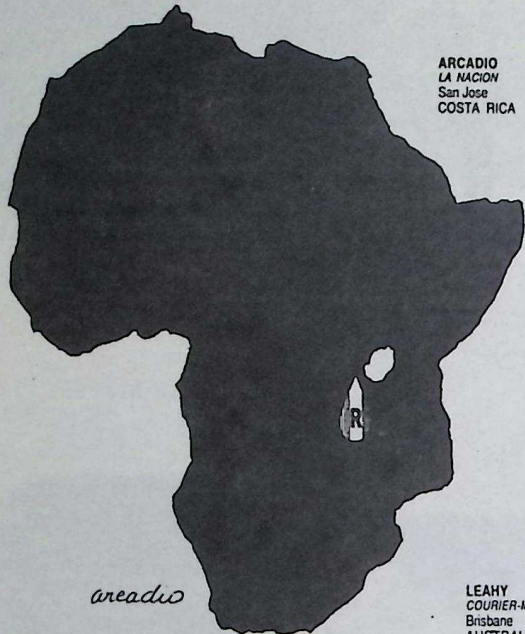
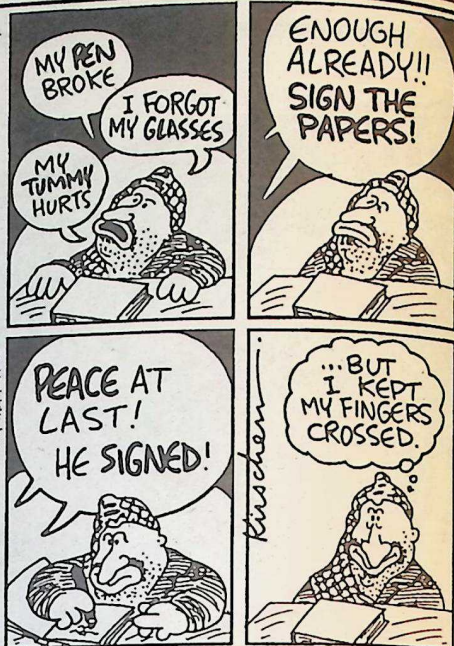


VIEWS of the WORLD

OLIVER
DER STANDARD
Vienna
AUSTRIA



KIRSCHEN
JERUSALEM REPORT
Jerusalem
ISRAEL



ARCADIO
LA NACION
San Jose
COSTA RICA



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Join Us for some Great Shows in June

Listen to Buddy Rubbish in the morning the week of May 30th. Each day of that week
Pearl Street and WRSI will give away a month long free pass for two
The month long pass is good for admission to these events and others

Wed.-Gay Night, Thur. - 18 & over, Fri.-DJ Lance (21+), Sat.-Club HMP
Special Events: Fashion Show and Aids Benefit (6/11), Family Fun Day(6/18)
Battle of the DJ's (6/9)

QUEEN LATIFAH
Friday, June 3

IVAN NEVILLE
Saturday, June 4

NRBQ
Friday, June 10

ROOMFUL OF BLUES
Saturday, June 11

KING SUNNY ADE
Monday, June 13

LEA DELARIA
Wednesday, June 15

JIMMIE VAUGHAN
Thursday, June 16

ADRIAN BELEW
Friday, June 17

JOHNNY COPELAND
Saturday, June 18

JUNIOR BROWN
Thursday, June 23

**MAHLATHINI
& MAHOTELLA
QUEENS**
Friday, June 24

TOWER OF POWER
Monday, June 27

ZAP MAMA
Tuesday, June 28



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FFFT FFFF PFFFF

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STROKES & SUPPORT
NEVER SAYS MEAN THINGS!
NOW SHE TALKS, TOO! PULL THE CORD & SHE SAYS:
• YOU WORK TOO HARD - TAKE TIME OFF!
• YOU WERE ALWAYS MY FAVORITE!
• I THINK YOUR LOVER'S VERY NICE!
• JUST PUT ME IN ANY OLD NURSING HOME WHEN THE TIME COMES.
• YES, YOU MADE ALL THE RIGHT DECISIONS! CAREER CHOICE!
• ONLY COME HOME WHEN YOU WANT TO.

100% CRITICISM FREE!
YOU'LL FIT IN HER LAP!
GIANT SIZE!

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Greetings from Singapore

John Bobbitt, eat your heart out...

MOVIE DEAL

OPRAH SHOW CONTRACT

Love, Michael Fay

Wish You Were Here!

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BIG BAND THEORY

... AND SO YOU SEE, REAL SWING DID NOT EXIST BEFORE LOUIS ARMSTRONG CAME UP TO CHICAGO FROM NEW ORLEANS. OF COURSE, THE "TERRITORY BANDS" ALSO WERE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL...

NEW ORLEANS MARCHING BANDS
KING OLIVER
LOUIS ARMSTRONG
DIXIE LASSIE
LOUIS JORDAN
DIRTY POLON BRASS BAND

WOW, I WONDER WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE SWING...

COSMIC!

THIS IS JUST BLOWING MY MIND!

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WHADDAYA MEAN, YOU'D MUCH RATHER LOSE YOUR HABITAT UNDER A DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION?!

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CHARTING TELEVISIONS MOST FRIGHTENING SHOWS

MORE SCARY →
← LESS SCARY

HOME VIEWER ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS THE OUTER LIMITS THE TWILIGHT ZONE THE EVENING NEWS

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PEARL JAM

BECK

"Good Lord... Sister Mary Agnes has gone GRUNGE!"

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DIET PLANS OF THE DEITIES

BACCHUS
"EAT JUST GRAPES AND WINE AND WEIGHT PROBLEMS WILL SOON RELEDE"

ASTARTE
"EAT GREEN THINGS ONLY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PISTACHIO ICE CREAM."

BUDDHA
"EAT ANYTHING YOU WANT, JUST DON'T EAT ANYTHING AT ALL."

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LOVE

A REALLY GOOD NON FATTENING SALAD DRESSING

MARIE, 43 YEARS OLD, HAVING PROGRESSIVELY LOWERED HER EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT A RELATIONSHIP COULD OFFER, HAD FINALLY REACHED THE POINT THAT A REALLY GOOD LUNCH SEEMED AS ALLURING AS PRETTY GOOD SEX.

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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

Tom Tomorrow 05-11-94
email: tomorrow@well.com

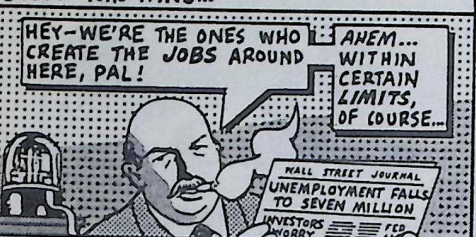
THE LAWS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND DICTATE THAT AS THE JOBLESS RATE **DROPS**, WAGES **INCREASE**. THE FEDERAL RESERVE HAS BEEN TRYING TO FORESTALL THIS BY RAISING INTEREST RATES--IN AN ATTEMPT TO **SLOW** JOB GROWTH AND MAINTAIN A NICE, HEALTHY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF AT LEAST **8 MILLION** AMERICANS...



IT IS A RESPONSE TO WALL STREET'S BELIEF THAT RISING WAGES CAUSE **INFLATION**... OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE EQUALLY VALID TO BLAME ESCALATING **PROFIT MARGINS**, BUT THIS IS RARELY MENTIONED...



TWO PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OWNS **HALF** THE STOCKS AND BONDS IN THIS COUNTRY... EIGHTY PERCENT OF AMERICANS DO NOT PLAY THE MARKETS AT **ALL**... AND YET WHEN THE PRIORITIES OF WALL STREET ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, GUESS WHO **WINS**...



IF YOU DOUBT THIS, CONSIDER THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR LAURA D'ANDREA TYSON RECENTLY ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE THE MARKETS WITH THE NEWS THAT WAGES HAVE BEEN **STAGNANT** FOR SIX MONTHS... WHICH CERTAINLY STRUCK US AS AN ODD THING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO BE CROWING ABOUT...



THIS MODERN WORLD

Tom Tomorrow 05-11-94

LAST WEEK, RICHARD NIXON--A MAN WHO NEEDLESSLY PROLONGED AN EVIL WAR FOR YEARS--WAS LAID TO REST BENEATH A TOMBSTONE DECLARING HIM A **"PEACEMAKER"**...



POSTHUMOUS MEDIA COMMENTARY CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF FLUFFY EULOGIES WHICH GLOSSED OVER VIETNAM AND WATERGATE IN FAVOR OF PLEASANT GENERALITIES...



IT WAS, UNDOUBTEDLY, THE RESULT OF A WELL-INTENTIONED DESIRE TO SPEAK NO ILL OF THE DEAD... AFTER ALL, RICHARD NIXON'S SINS ARE HISTORY **NOW**, RIGHT?



OF COURSE, WHY STOP WITH NIXON? HECK, IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING **NICE** ABOUT A DEAD PERSON--ANY DEAD PERSON--THEN DON'T SAY ANYTHING AT **ALL**!



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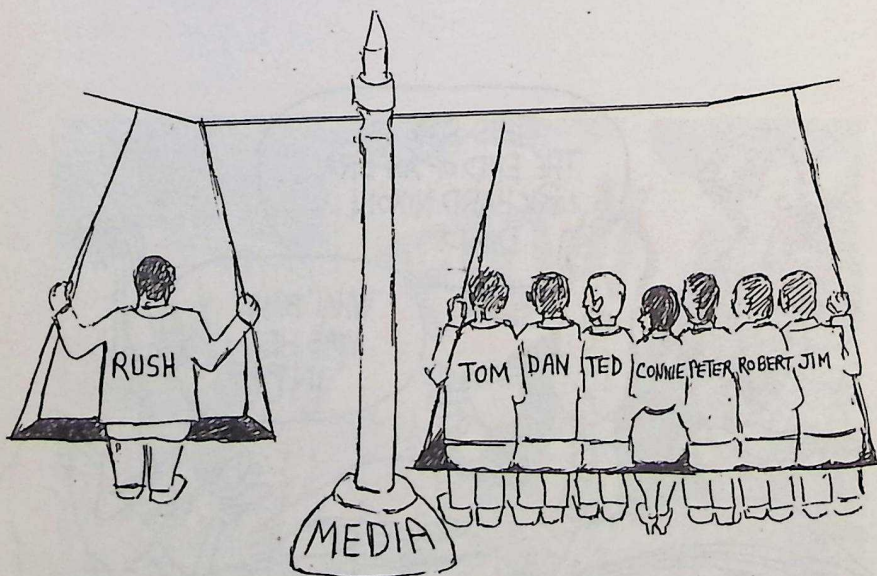
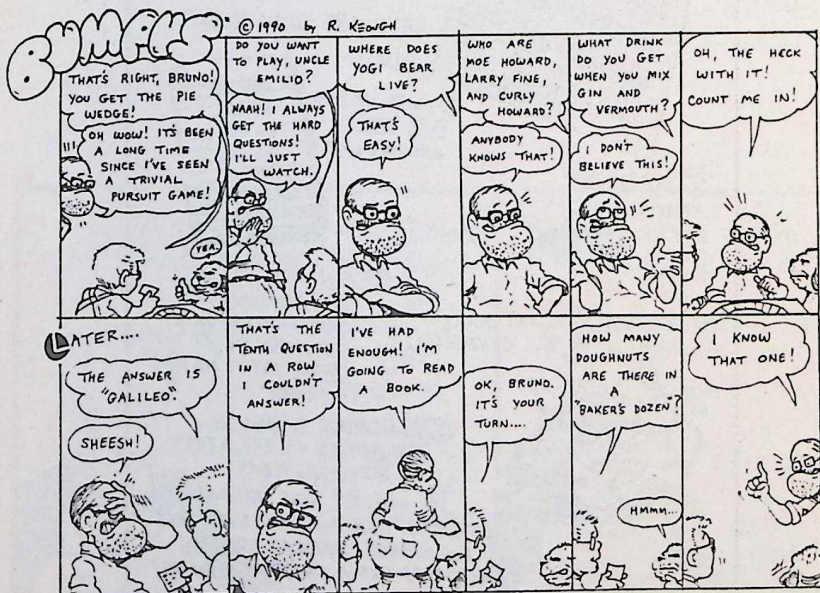
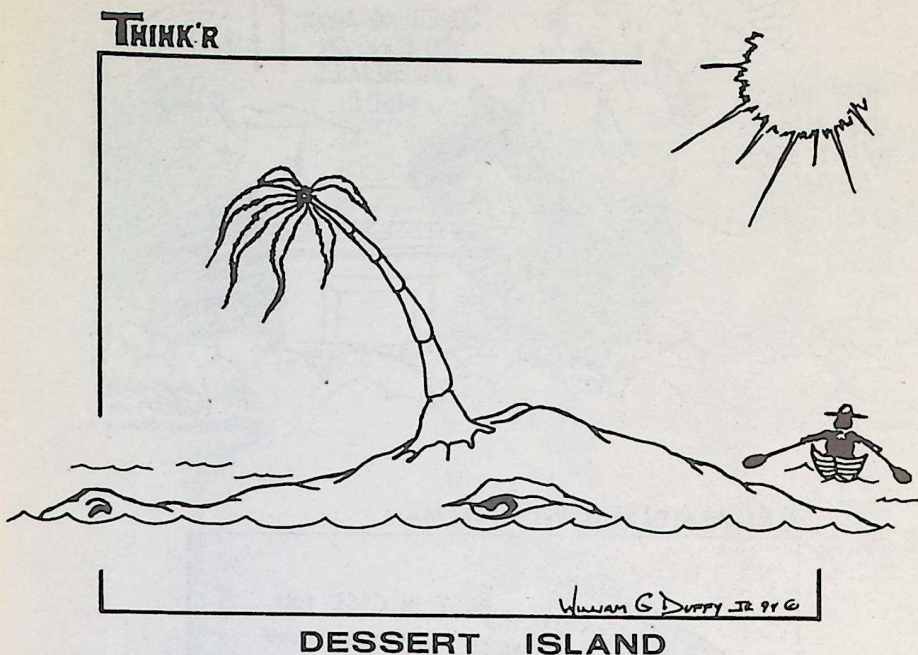
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Montague
Mini-Mart

THE TRICKMEISTER



BERMAN BY JENNIFER BERMAN

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1 MAKE UP YOUR VERY OWN ENEMIES LIST

2 SPY ON YOUR COMPETITION!
B.Y.O. WIRING DEVICES.

3 DECLARE A SECRET WAR!
(SHHH! DON'T TELL CONGRESS!)

4 FUN WITH LOGIC!
DO SOMETHING BLATANTLY CRIMINAL. THEN, WHEN YOU GET CAUGHT, SAY "I AM NOT A CROOK!"

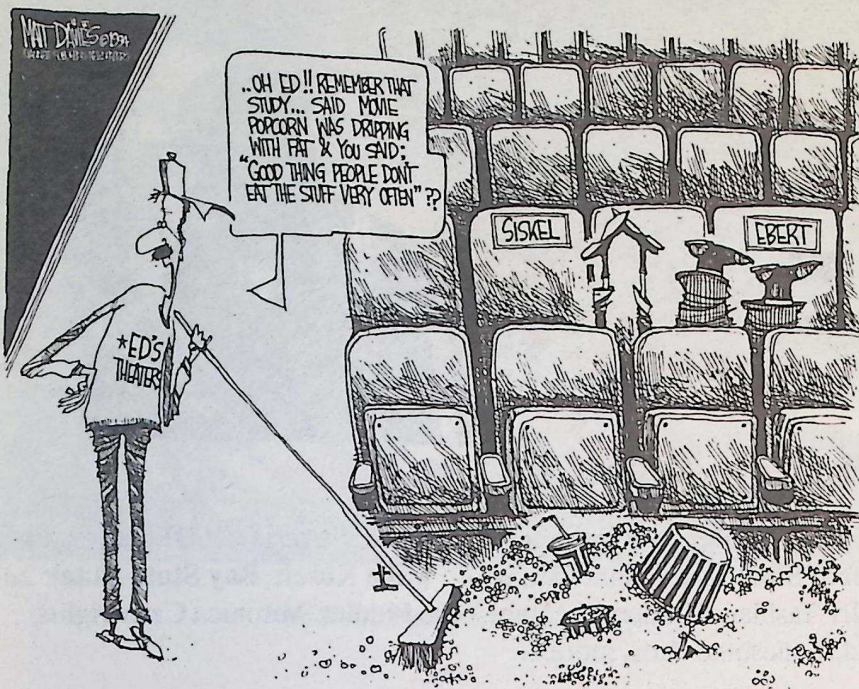
5 REMEMBER TO PASS ON THE MORAL OF THE STORY TO THE YOUNGSTERS:
YOU CAN SET NEW STANDARDS OF CORRUPTION, PARANOIA & VILENESS IN THE HIGHEST OFFICE & STILL GET EULOGISED LIKE A SAINT WHEN YOU DIE!

Quincy "SORRY I CAN'T GET IN THE SPIRIT" Berman ©1994

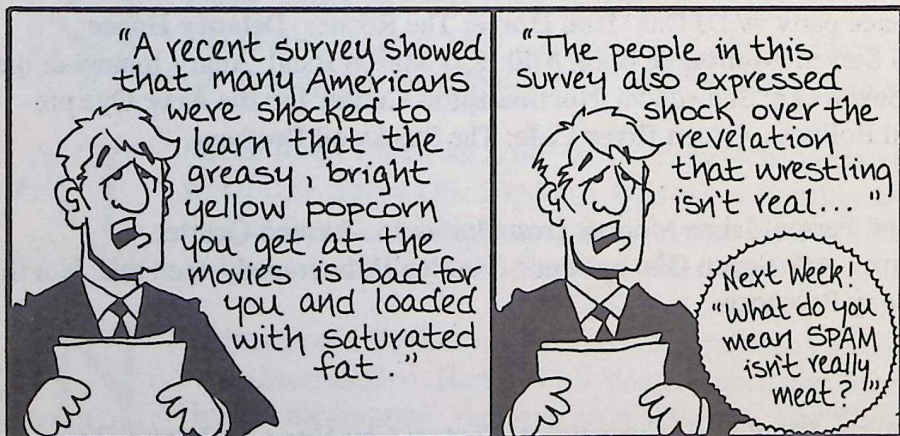
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FAT TO BE TIED



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Sundown

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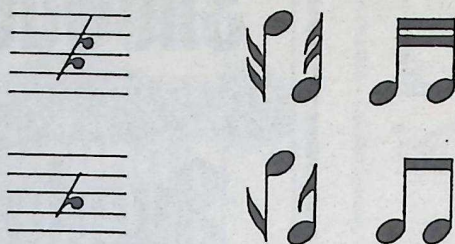
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THU
NINETEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Gil Scott-Heron **Hadley Pub:** open mic blues jam **Seven O's:** DJ dance club **Pearl Street:** 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek **Bay State Hotel:** 2nd Annual Tribute to Gram Parsons — Barry & Holly Tashian, Gordon Titcomb, Zeke Fiddler, Veronica Cartwrights, Scud Mt. Boys, Painesville Lanes, Amy Fairchild, Lonesome Bros, more....

FRI
TWENTY

Pearl Street: Equalites, plus club music w/ DJ Lance **Bay State Hotel:** The Lilys, Tizzy, The Veronica Cartwrights **Seven O's:** Showdown **Delaney House:** LaValley Duo **Green River Cafe:** Tony Bird **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Grandfather (work in progress by Nathan Guisinger) **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** showcase & open mic **Iron Horse:** The Roches **Vertex:** Hard Core Show **North Star:** Graduation dance, w/ DJ Betsy **Montague Book Mill:** Wildest Dreams

SAT
TWENTYONE

Vertex: Selectrocution **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ Dan **Iron Horse:** The Roches **Delaney House:** LaValley Duo **North Star:** Dance party, w/ DJ Steven **Montague Book Mill:** Ray Mason Band, Angry Johnny & the Killbillies **Pearl Street:** J. Geils Blues Time **Seven O's:** Showdown **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Oye presents Danse Afrique **Bay State Hotel:** Big Bad Bollocks **Green River Cafe:** The Stockwell Brothers

SUN
TWENTYTWO

Green River Cafe: Poetry reading **Pearl Street:** Ferron, Jaime Morton **Iron Horse:** Joe Lavano Quartet **Northampton Brewery:** Amy Fairchild, Hydrox 1-4-5 **Seven O's:** open mic **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **North Star:** Retro dance night **Vertex:** Rapid Symphony Psychosis

MON
TWENTYTHREE

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Vertex:** Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve **Iron Horse:** Music Contract Workshop/ Open Stage (5:30)

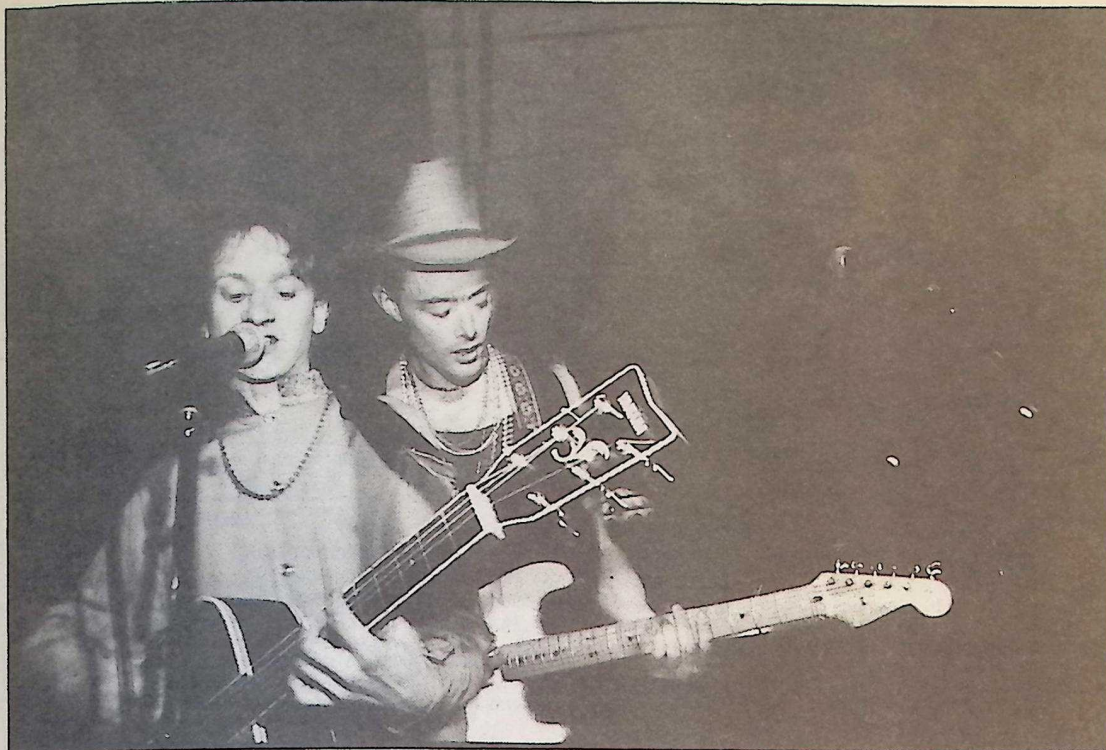
TUE
TWENTYFOUR

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Dave Boatwright **Iron Horse:** Savoy Brown **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Pearl Street:** John Hiatt & the Guilty Dogs



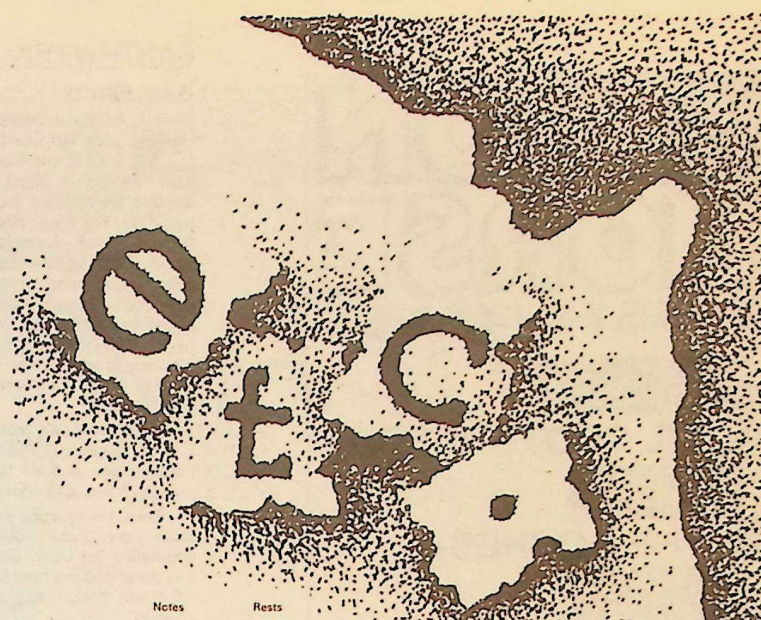
WED
TWENTYFIVE

Hadley Pub: Reggae party **North Star:** C & W dance night **Iron Horse:** Charmaine Neville, Zulu Spear **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Maple Ridge



The Rent Party at the Bay State

Tobey photo



Notes		Rests	
	whole		
	half		
	quarter		
	8th		
	16th		
	32nd		
	64th		

THU TWENTYSIX

Seven O's: DJ Dance Club **Hadley Pub:** open mic blues jam **Bay State Hotel:** Miracle Legion **Pearl Street:** 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Cowboy Junkies **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek

FRI TWENTYSEVEN

Bay State Hotel: Rock Gods, Rent Party, Cross To Bear **North Star:** Rugby weekend **Pearl Street:** Top 40 w/ DJ Lance **Seven O's:** Sundown **Iron Horse:** Acoustic Alliance concert, featuring 10 artists **Vertex:** A & E Showcase **Delaney's:** Lavalley Duo **Green River Cafe:** Ed Byrne Jazz Workshop **Montague Book Mill:** Julia Burrough, leticia **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** showcase & open mic

SAT TWENTYEIGHT

Green River Cafe: Lyn Hardy & The New Hohemians **North Star:** Sue Burkhart **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ Dan **Seven O's:** Sundown **Delaney's:** Lavalley Duo **Bay State Hotel:** Godheadsilo, Caroline Know, Zeke Fiddler **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Noteable Performers present Cabaret show **Iron Horse:** Robin & Linda Williams, Lucy Kaplanski **Pearl Street:** Club HMP, w/ music by Spin, Inc.

SUN TWENTYNINE

Northampton Brewery: Bamboo Steamers, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies **Seven O's:** open mic **Iron Horse:** Frank Morgan Duo **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **Montague Book Mill:** Song & story swap (4:30) **North Star:** Holiday dance party **Vertex:** Cannibal Corpse **Bay State Hotel:** Dieselmeat, Jasper, Isaak of the Jug **Green River Cafe:** Jim Henry & Joe Belmont

MON THIRTY

Vertex: Broken Hope **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Greg Piccalo & Heavy Juice **Seven O's:** Jamboree (D.A.R.E. benefit) — hosted by Sundown (seven bands, 2-9pm), followed by open mic

TUE THIRTYONE

Northampton Brewery: open mic, Zeke Fiddler & Matt Hunter, hosts **Iron Horse:** Robert Gordon, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Vertex:** Broken Hope **Green River Cafe:** open mic, w/ host Rob Skelton

WED ONE

Iron Horse: Devonsquare, Rachel Bissex **Pearl Street:** Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Equalites, Black Rebels (outdoor concert) **Hadley Pub:** Reggae party **North Star:** C & W dancing

EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Bear Farms

Animal activists in Boston have launched a petition drive to end the practice of bear "farming" in China, where the animals are "milked" for medicinal purposes. The World Society for the Protection of Animals believes about 5,000 of the Asiatic black bears have been imprisoned for more than a decade inside cramped cages in China, with metal tubes permanently inserted into their gall bladders to extract bile. The fluid is used as a tonic for a variety of common ailments.

The society said that the cages are so small that the bears can hardly move, and the tubes cause pain, distress, and inflammation.

Even though cubs are regularly taken from China's declining wild population for such uses, Beijing has defended the bear farms as an important method of protecting the species.

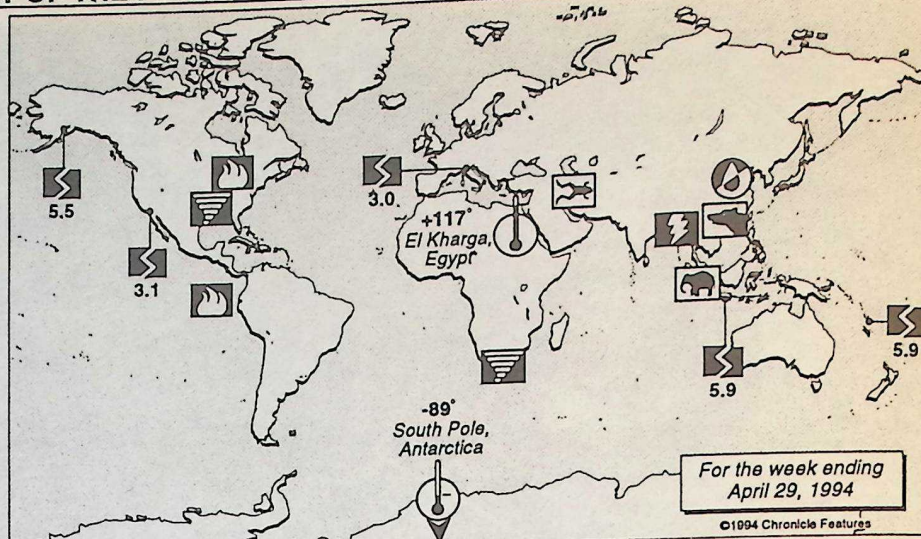
Spring Twisters

Several consecutive days of severe weather across the U.S. brought deadly tornadoes that killed at least 13 people and wrecked homes and other structures from Indiana to Texas.

Freak autumn storms across South Africa spawned a tornado and high winds that killed two people in Orange Free State. Forty homes were damaged by a sudden squall that struck a mainly white Johannesburg suburb.

Bengal Storms

A second week of severe thunderstorms across Bangladesh produced deadly lightning, fierce winds, and hail that killed at least 20 people. The storms flattened about 3,000 mud-and-thatch huts and uprooted thousands of trees and utility poles. Thousands of acres of crops also were destroyed.



Amphibious Invasion

A plague of frogs brought on by a sudden heat wave in northern Iran is eating up the region's rice crop. The official IRNA news agency reported that farmers say they have seen nothing like it in living memory. The rice paddies of Mazandaran province have been the worst affected.

Wildfires

Fires which have ravaged the Galapagos island of Isabella were brought under control after destroying up to 22,000 acres of vegetation on the natural paradise. The island's famed 6,000 giant turtles were unhurt by the blazes, and wildlife is expected to recover from the fires within a few years.

At least 10 separate wildfires charred hundreds of acres of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, sparked by a sudden warm spell and an extended period of dry weather.

Earthquakes

Alaska's Cook Inlet was rattled by a magnitude 5.5 quake centered 45 miles southwest of Anchorage. Earth movements also were felt in East Java, northern Italy, Vanuatu, and the Southern California Northridge aftershock zone.

Drought

The forest fires that raged across Inner Mongolia in early April may be only the start of a growing disaster from northern China's extended drought. The 16-month dry spell centered in Beijing is referred to as "the drought of the century" by the official Xinhua news agency. Many of the capital's reservoirs are almost empty, and principal water sources have shown a sharp decline. Worst-hit farming areas have such severe water shortages that people must venture up to six miles each day to collect water for villagers and livestock.

Elephant Labor

Authorities in Indonesia's southern Sumatran Lampung province are proceeding with plans to train wild elephants to plow rice fields in the region. The scheme was agreed upon after the success of a pilot project which demonstrated that the pachyderms were four times as strong as buffaloes, which also are used. Conservation officials estimate that there are about 700 of the wild, endangered elephants in the Lampung jungle, which are supposed to be protected by law. The officials justify the captive labor project by saying it will help supervise the species and curtail the elephant rampages that have destroyed crops and homes, and killed many villagers in recent years.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, Chinese Central Weather Bureau, Japan Meteorological Agency, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.

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WED 25

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THUR 26

THE COWBOY
JUNKIES

FRI 27

ACOUSTIC
ALLIANCE CONCERT

SAT 28

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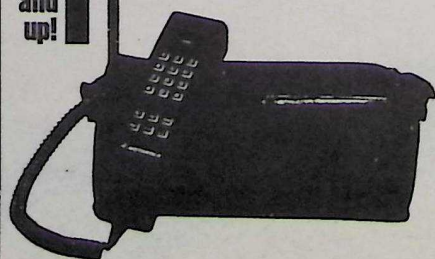
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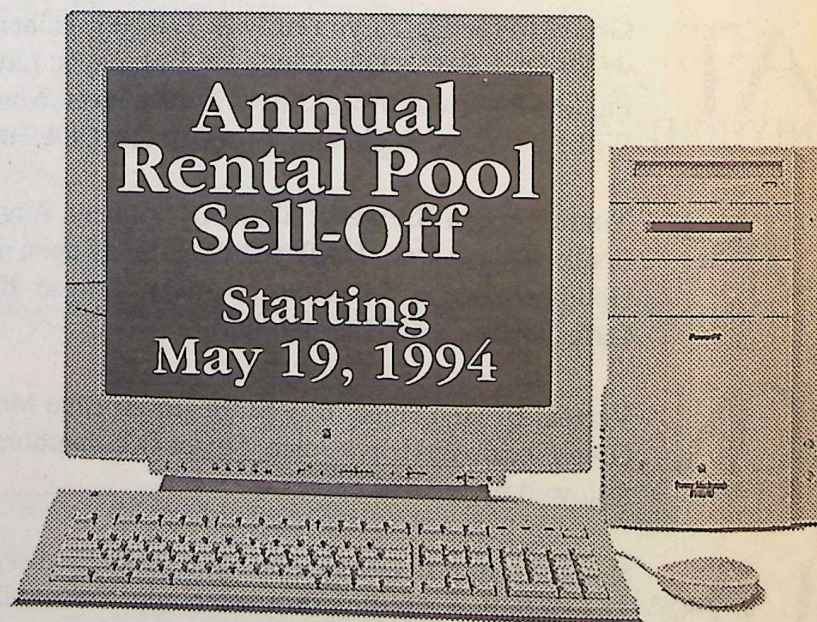
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Cyclonic Disaster

 More than 175 bodies were recovered in Bangladesh after a devastating tropical cyclone ripped across southern areas of the country. At least 7,000 people were injured when winds of up to 140 miles per hour caused widespread damage on the north-east shore of the Bay of Bengal. Many of the deaths occurred at the Burmese refugee camps along the highway linking Cox's Bazar and Teknaf.

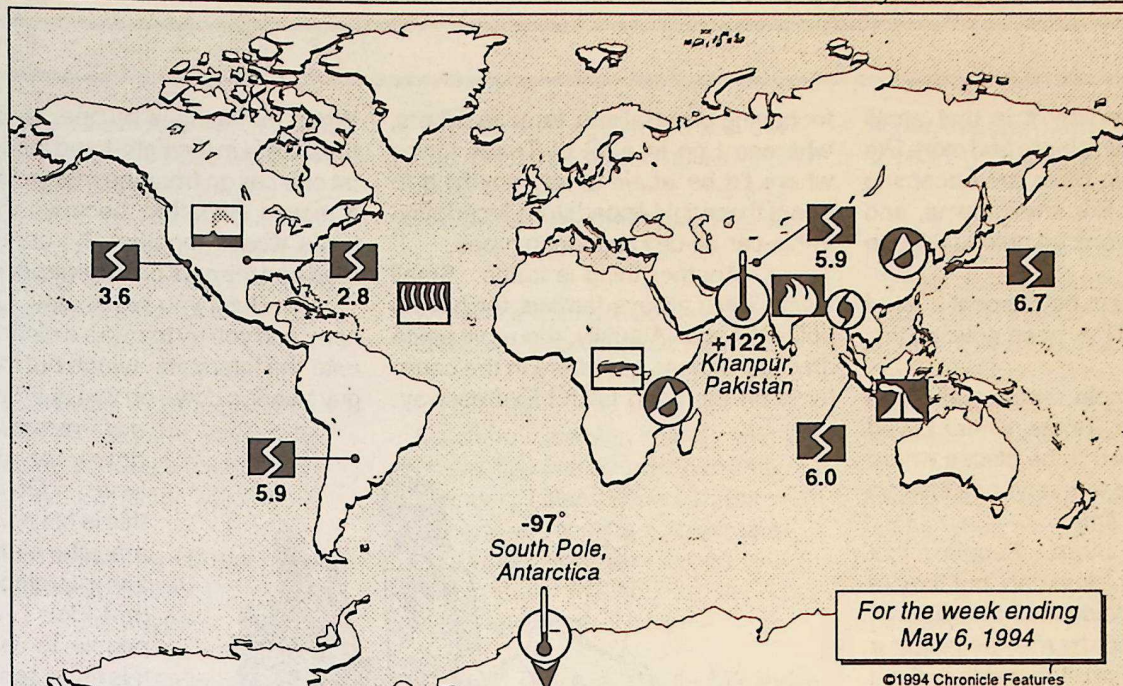
Red Locusts

 Tanzania is threatened by a massive invasion of red locusts that is unprecedented in scale for the past 50 years. Jackson Makwetta, minister for agriculture, told reporters that large colonies of the pests, still undergoing metamorphosis, were spotted in the traditional breeding and outbreak areas. They are expected to migrate soon into Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Zaire. Makwetta urged the Kenya-based International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa to take immediate measures to combat the invasion in its early stages.


Droughts

 Beijing residents breathed a sigh of relief as a rain-storm broke the capital's 16-month drought. More than one inch of rain fell during a 20-hour period. The storm will help the region's agriculture temporarily, but much more is needed to replenish severely depleted water supplies.

Recent regular and heavy rainfall in many parts of Kenya has eased fears of famine, and spared the country's vital tea and coffee export crops. As much as three times the normal weekly rainfall occurred in some areas of the country during the first few days of May.




Earthquakes


 Sea levels rose briefly and items on shelves wobbled as a magnitude 6.7 temblor occurred deep below the seabed off Japan's Kyushu Island. No damage or injuries were reported from the 30-second quake, but a tsunami warning was issued briefly for many coastal areas of southwest Japan.

Earth movements also were felt in western Sumatra, the mountains between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, northern Argentina, Oklahoma, and Southern California.


Eruption

 Anak Krakatau (Krakatoa) Volcano spewed a stream of glowing lava 200 feet into the early morning sky above Straits of Sunda. The 20-minute eruption awakened inhabitants 16 miles away on the beaches of West Java. Krakatau produced hundreds of tremors and quakes during the two days prior to the fiery eruption.

Geothermal Jolt


 A sharp earthquake in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park during late March has caused its famed geysers to undergo dramatic changes. While Old Faithful has remained steadfast, Monarch erupted for the first time since 1913, sending a growing column of rocks, mud, and water about 15 feet high. The Ledge Geyser also erupted after 15 years of dormancy, with angled columns of water up to 130 feet high.

Ocean Warming

 Oceanographic studies conducted during a recreation of Columbus's first voyage to the Americas has indicated that the world's oceans are indeed warming up, but not as the "greenhouse" theories predicted. Instead of the expected warming at levels near the surface, Britain's James Rennell Center for Ocean Circulation found the most pro-


nounced rise in temperatures has occurred at a layer about 3,500 feet deep. The findings were published in the science journal *Nature*.

Fire Demons

 Terrified residents of a hillside village in northwest Nepal's Bardiyah District are trying to figure out why fires are mysteriously igniting on their rooftops and haystacks. Freak atmospheric conditions beneath a blazing spring sun may be the cause, and 10 houses have been reduced to ashes by the flames so far. Sometimes, one blaze suddenly will go out in full view of the villagers, only to shift to another roof nearby. Fearing some "unseen force," villagers who can afford it have begun replacing their roofs with tiles.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, British Meteorological Office, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

I wonder why it is that small towns are becoming more and more like big cities, and big cities are becoming more and more like small towns, and pretty soon we won't be able to tell one from the other.

I've lived in both, spent a lot of time in both, and I've been noticing this for a long time.

For example, really small towns — like Muleshoe, Texas, where I lived for a while — used to be places where *everybody* spoke to everybody else on the street *all the time*.

Not any more. People might wave from their pickup cab, but they're mostly *isolated* inside their cars all day. They drive around, *by themselves*, in a motor vehicle, doing stuff that they don't discuss with anybody else. The only time they talk is on the phone.

So where *do* people talk on the street?

Go to the North Beach area of San Francisco, or the northern part of downtown Chicago, or Greenwich Village. Those are all places where the neighborhoods get smaller and smaller, the buildings are all old and under historic protection, the sidewalks are wide, and people *walk around*.

Therefore, they have to *talk*. In fact, all three of these places are known

for having *greattalkers*, famous talkers, whereas I go to a lot of Texas towns where I'd be *afraid* to say anything to one of those tight-lipped stern-faced stay-in-his-car-all-day salesman types.

Another thing is traffic. Small towns were always famous for having polite drivers. Actually, the most polite driving I witness anywhere in the country is on the Long Island Expressway.

When that thing is bumper to bumper, the people in the right-hand lane *always* let one car on from the merge lane. So it moves smoothly, because they just kinda weave together the cars on the road and the cars on the entrance ramp.

But if you got to, say, Birmingham, and you try to make a clean merge onto the interstate, *watch out* for some guy bearing down on you at 50 who *will not* move, slow down, or change lanes. Of course, this is his *right*. You are, after all, the person merging. You just don't *expect* people to *insist* on this right. I got impatient with a slow driver in Little Rock, Arkansas one time, passed him on the right shoulder, and thought he was gonna *kill me*. He chased me for miles. They talk about freeway shootings in El Lay, but they haven't seen the look on a driver's face who thinks he's been

wronged in Savannah, Georgia.

Finally, there's the old "small towns as a place to raise kids" argument. Small towns have become *terrible* places to raise kids. The kids are so bored they turn to drugs and booze as soon as they hit junior high.

What kinda places do kids *love*? Places with subways and street life and major-league baseball stadiums and ballet classes and weird people selling hot dogs on the corner. Where do you go in a small town? *The mall*. The place that looks like every *other* place in the country.

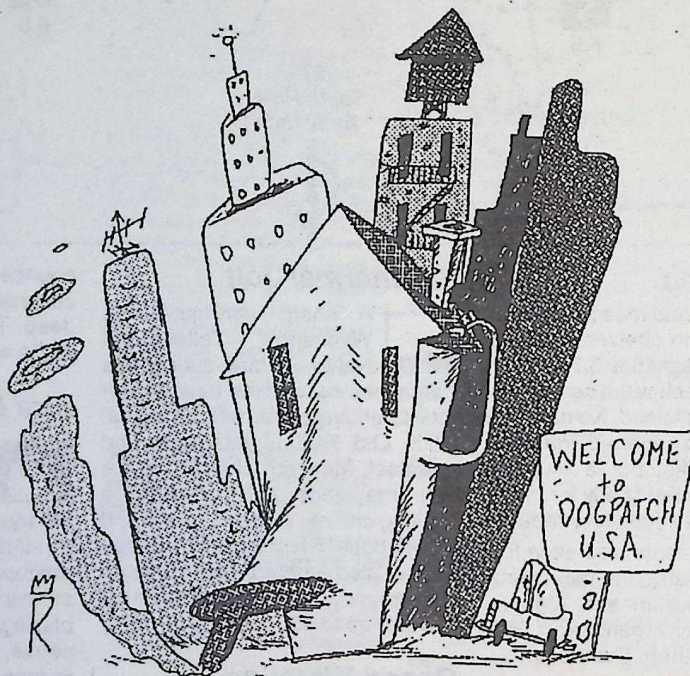
This is what cities were always accused of — being full of boring buildings that looked all the same.

I've met elementary school children in Leakey, Texas, and I've met elementary school children in New York City. Guess which ones were more articulate?

I don't know where this "cities are bad for children" thing started, but it's a big fat lie.

That's my opinion, anyhow. Now. Go ahead and shoot me.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. Are any Shaker colonies left?

A. One, with eight members, at Sabbathday Lake, Maine. The hard physical labor and the monastic, celibate lifestyle tend to discourage new applicants.

Scientists think still-undiscovered animal species on earth outnumber those they know about.

According to a recent survey of 100 major U.S. corporations, the average workday lunch period is exactly 49 minutes, 31 seconds.

The longest-lasting single earthquake of record was the Alaska shakeup in 1964. It went on for four minutes.

Police say one-third of all the parked automobiles in Paris, France, are parked illegally.

If you were born before 1952, you came into the world before the word "automation" appeared in any dictionary.

According to Canadian researchers, 19 percent of married women and 21 percent of married men have affairs.

Q. How much would the infamous 30 pieces of silver in the Bible have been worth to a citizen of the day?

A. If they were the Phoenician coins struck in Tyre between 126 BC and 65 AD, as many scholars believe, then four months' wages for a harvest hand.

Pharmacists who know the history of their profession say the words "elixir" or "tincture" on labels usually have been synonyms for "alcohol."

Hinduism is the only current major religion that still calls for the worship of goddesses.

If all the lawns in America were patched into one enormous lawn, it would be about the size of Pennsylvania.

Q. What proportion of the adults in the United States don't drink alcoholic beverages?

A. About 35 percent.

The Isle of Man in the Irish Sea is not named after the male gender. The name is short for "Manannan Mac Lir," the legendary Celtic lord of the sea.

If you still beat egg whites in a bowl, be advised: they'll beat up faster and stiffer in a copper bowl. The egg-white protein conalbumin bonds with copper ions.

Cervantes defined a proverb as "a short sentence derived from long experience."

Catching mice is evidently not an instinctive characteristic of cats. Laboratory kittens have been raised with laboratory mice as playmates. But when older cats that kill are introduced, the kittens learn to do so, and never unlearn it.

Ancient art suggests the first cowboys to rope bulls with lassos were Egyptians in the Nile valley.

Q. Why do six times more men than women over age 65 commit suicide?

A. Analysts say because so many more men than women have worked all their lives towards goals that are no longer valid after retirement.

By common definition, a "snowstorm" turns into a "blizzard" when the temperature drops below 20 degrees F. and the wind rises above 35 mph.

Kansas law permits you to eat a snake on Saturday, but not on Sunday.

"Enriched" and "fortified" on food labels don't mean the same thing. "Enriched" means they've added a nutrient that was originally in the food but diminished in processing. "Fortified" means they've added a nutrient that wasn't originally in the food at all.

Men growing beards can figure they'll add another inch every eight weeks.

Customs inspectors on the Maldives — islands off India — look for four things when they check out tourists' luggage: liquor, dogs, pigs, and graven images.

A shark, stripped of its teeth, can grow a new set in about a week.

Not everyone who drinks coffee black knows this: cream keeps it hot. Cream first cools coffee just enough, then forms an insulating layer of fat molecules across the surface to hold in the heat that's left.

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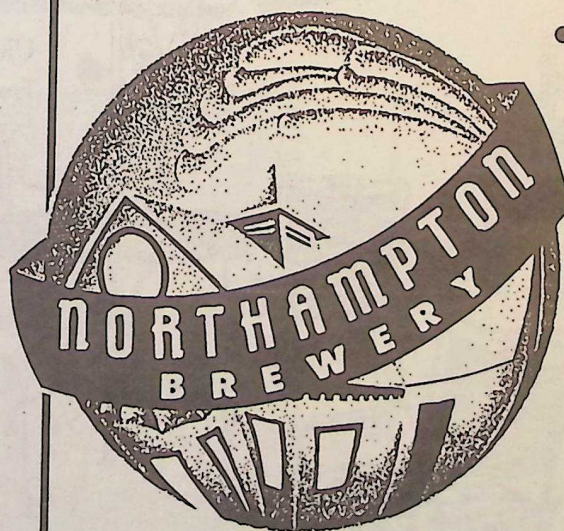


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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Moments before he was ripped to shreds, Edgar vaguely recalled having seen that same obnoxious tie earlier in the day.



Until finally being replaced by its more popular and deadly cousin, the Bowie spoon was often used to settle disputes in the Old West.



In the stadiums of ancient Rome, the most feared trial was the rub-your-stomach-and-pat-your-head-at-the-same-time event.

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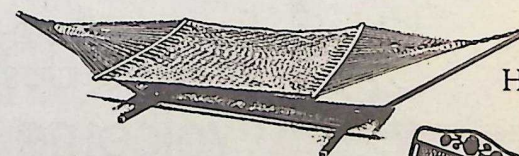


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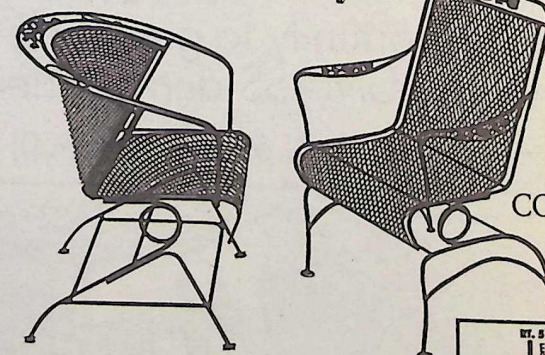
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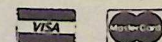
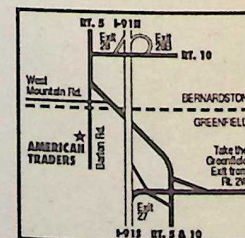
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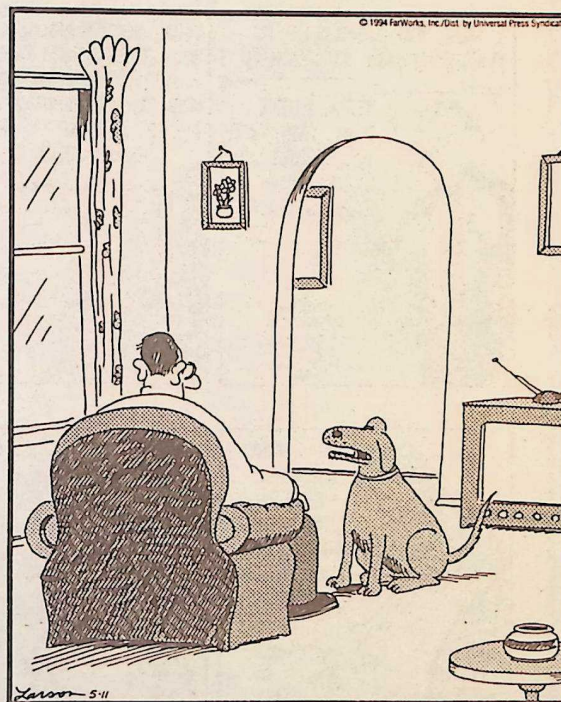
"Boy, Henry ... he really *can* do you!"



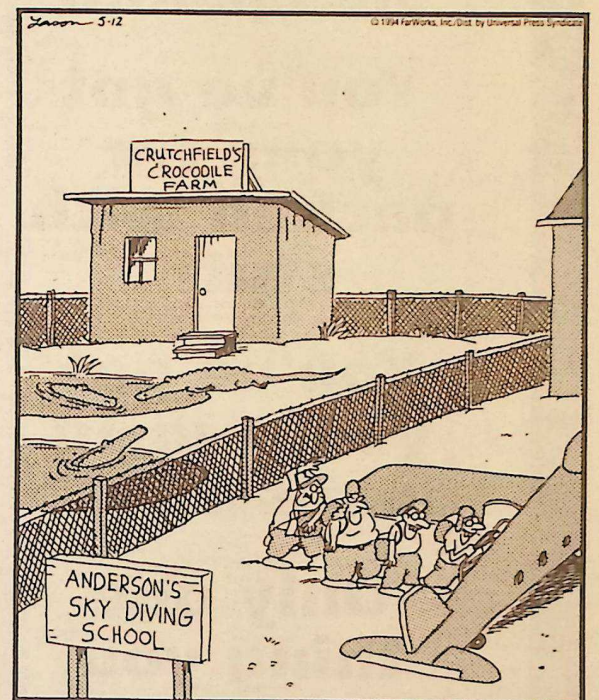
"I *would* have gotten away scot free if I had just gotten rid of the evidence. ... But, shoot — I'm a packrat."



The modern anteater



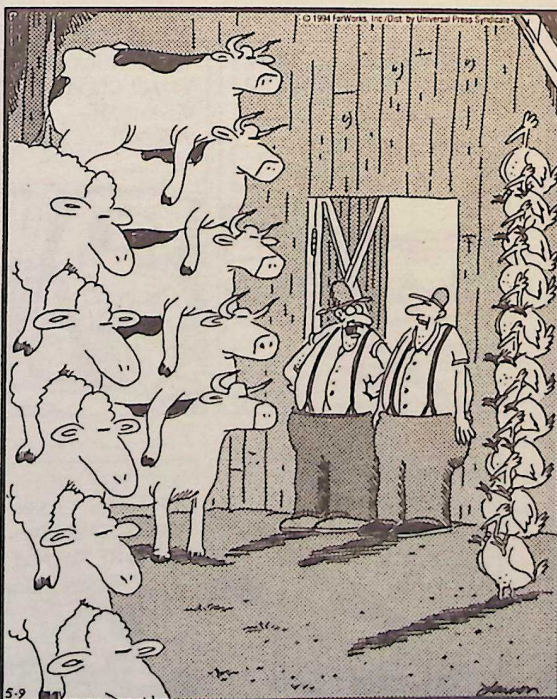
"The truth is, Stan, I'd like a place of my own."



More trouble brewing



"Oh, man, Clem! To add insult to injury, I see a great campsite right over yonder."



"It's the only way to go, Frank. Why, my life's changed, ever, since I discovered Stackable Livestock.®"



CONGRATULATIONS

GRADUATES!!!

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your
sheepskin,

You've got
your car
packed with
stuff,**

**You've got
your world
on a string...**

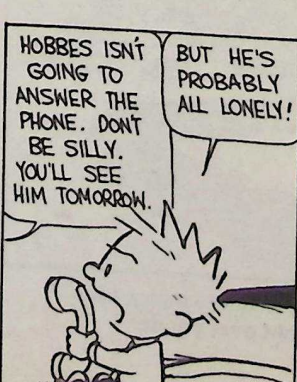
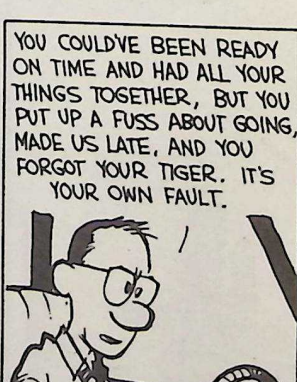
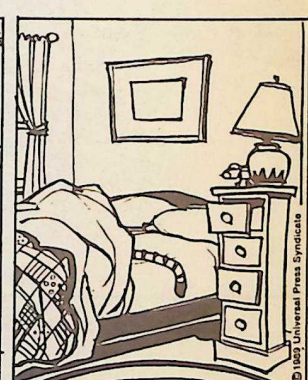
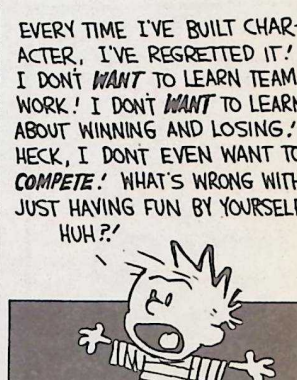
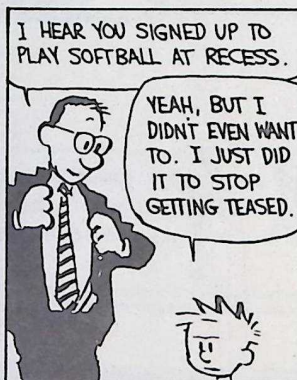
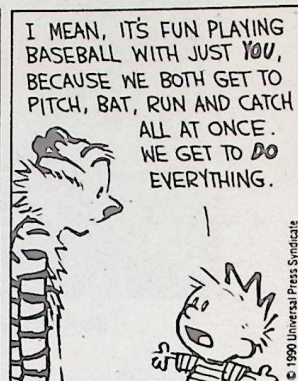
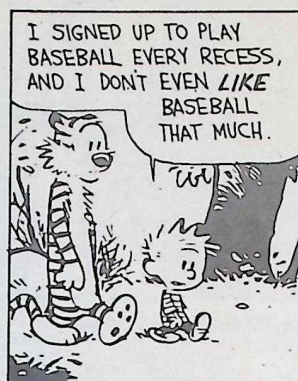
**Only one
thing you
haven't got:**

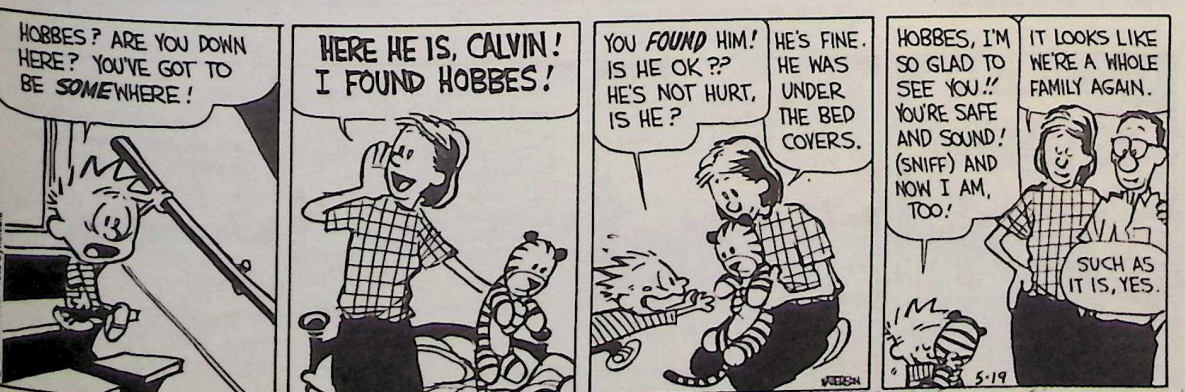
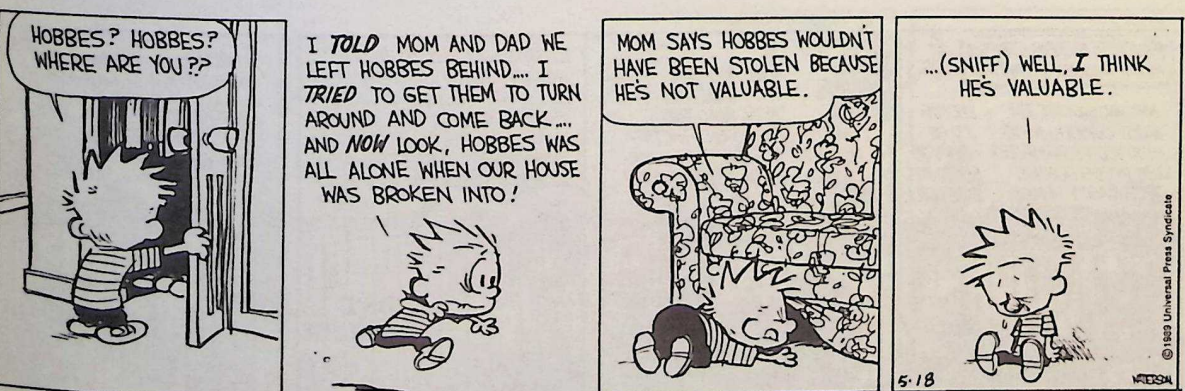
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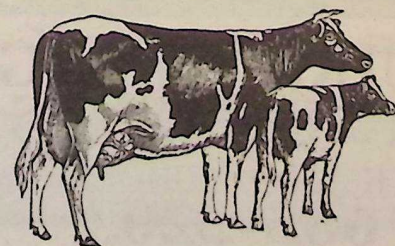
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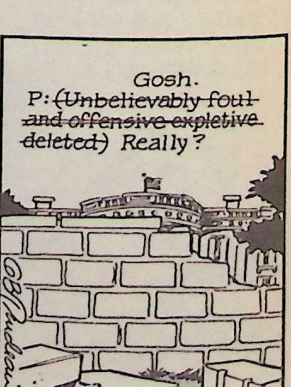
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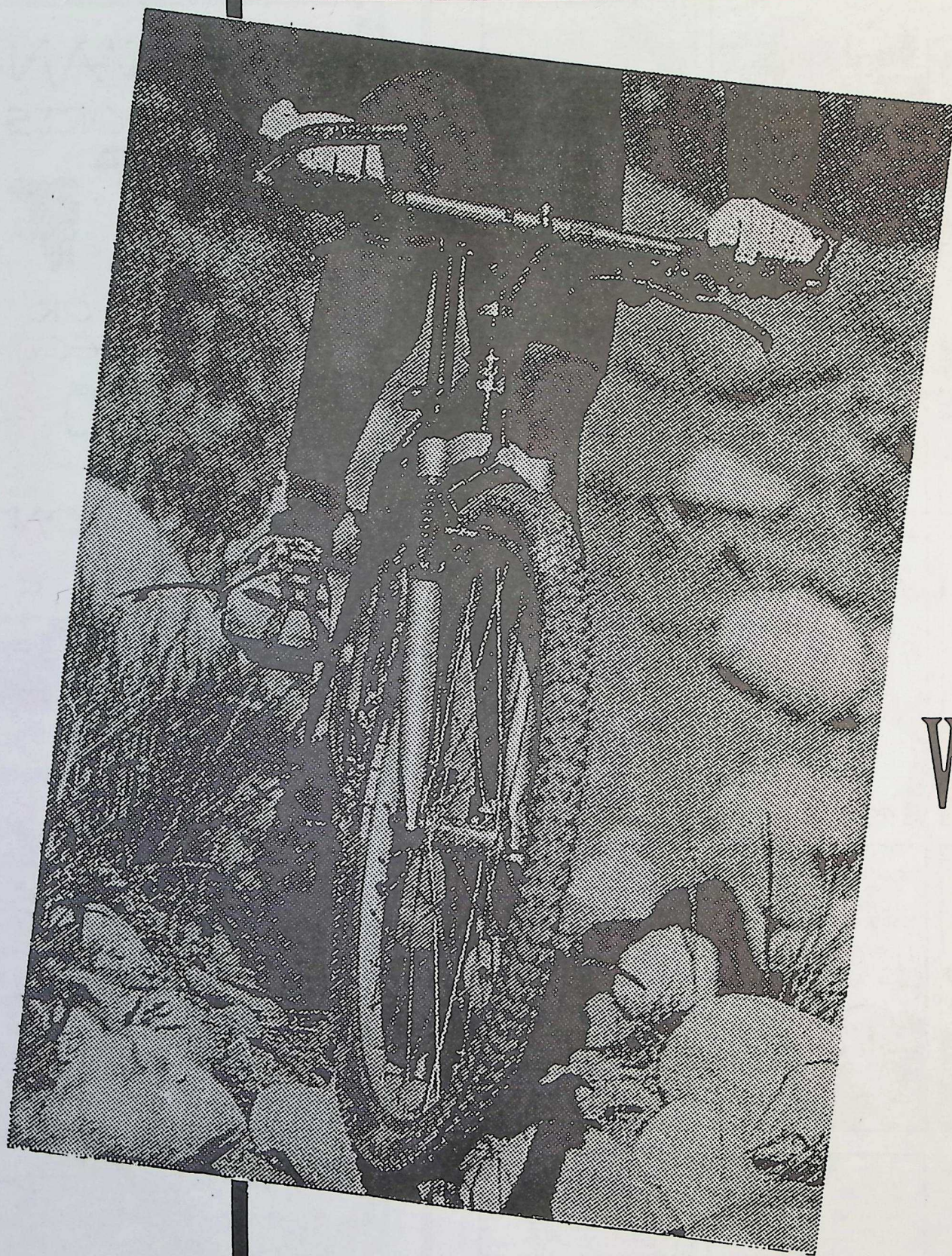
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